

Hello everyone ...

Welcome to the February Newsletter. In February we celebrate Valentine's Day – a time to remember those we love and hopefully reflect on happy times. The first Valentine's Day was in 496. Previously there was a Roman festival called Lupercalia which was in the middle of February.

During this festival, the boys would select a girl's name out of a box and they would stay with whoever they picked during the festival.

Later on, it was decided by the church that they wanted to change this festival into a Christian celebration. This was the start of Valentine's Day.



I hope you find something of interest in our Newsletter.

Jane Barker, Temporary Newsletter Editor

Welcome to David, our new Newsletter editor



Hi, my name is David Powell, and I will be taking over as Newsletter Editor from the March edition, following in the footsteps of Val Darbyshire who has done such a good job over the last few years.

Although I am quite a new member of Chalfonts U3A, I have lived in Gerrards Cross for over 40 years. I have enjoyed taking part in the London Walks and Walking 2 – 6 miles groups, and I also belong to the Theatre Trips and New Experiences groups.

Outside of U3A I am an enthusiastic member of the Gerrards Cross Conservation Volunteers, helping to keep the footpaths on the Common clear, and I am a member of the Chiltern District Welsh Society, where I am also the Newsletter Editor.

I look forward to my stint as your new newsletter editor and hope to keep up the high standards of my predecessors.

New members

A warm welcome to our bumper crop of new members:

Dr Cheryl Rezek, Linda Robertson, Michael Reynolds, Diane and Gary Eaton, Jeff Medlock, Christina Brandon, Erica Neustadt, Christa Edgar, Pat and John Routledge, Andrew Whitehead, Malcolm Campbell, Maureen and David Crump, Catherine and Colin Picton, Roger and Christine Edwards, Hilary Thomas, Rosalind Ridout, Victor Pells, Khorshed Dinshaw, Sally Gomme, Patricia Musk, Deborah Jensen, Sandi Blunstone, Karen-Anne Devoil, David and Sarah Steel, Simon Hillyer, Sue Jenkins, June Morrison, Pat Wormley, Carol Challen, Sandra and Phillip Marlow,

Daniel and Gillian Cranefield, Frances Whitley, Diana Wallace, John and Lynn Tweed.

Please be sure to check out the information on our website and the contact list on the back two pages of every newsletter.

New Members Coffee Mornings

The next New Members coffee morning will be held on **Wednesday February 7th from 10-11am** in the cafe at Gerrards Cross Community Association on East Common SL9 7AD and Eileen Powell, Vice Chair, will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about our interest groups. The cafe doesn't accept cash payments, only by card. New Members have been notified but if there are any other recent members who haven't been able to attend previous meetings please contact Eileen. Newmemberscoffeemorning@Chalfontsu3a.org.uk



A day in the Life of..... Group Coordinator (Lesley Bedford)

In July/August I will have completed 4 years in the role of Group Coordinator and we are looking for someone, or perhaps two people to take over. We thought it would be useful if I explained what a day in the life of the Group Coordinator was like.

The role first and foremost involves helping members find out about and join groups of which we have more than 70. Members email me asking for information about groups and I try to help by either putting them in touch with convenors or dealing with enquiries myself. Another important part of my role is to start new groups where there is an interest and this involves meeting up with people who show an interest and helping a group get started. The role is a very social one and involves interacting with members on a regular basis.

We have convenor workshops each year where we meet up with convenors and help guide them through their role and show our appreciation. These are lively events and are very well received. Another aspect of my role is to ensure that group convenors follow the appropriate pathway for booking rooms at the Community Centre or courts at the Leisure Centre. When invoices come in from these two venues I check that the information is correct and that rooms and courts have been used as described in the invoice.

As a committee member I attend committee meetings, usually every other month and this is an opportunity to meet with fellow committee members and deal with tasks and issues that come up related to my role.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the role and hope that it has inspired you to consider coming forward to find out more. I would be more than happy to support anyone that is interested in the role - contact groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

A reminder, just in case..

All members are reminded that they should carry with them their emergency contact details, either on their phone or on a piece of paper in their bag/pocket.

Monthly meeting dates for your diary



14 February 2024 at 2pm – Metropolitan 1 for Amersham in Bloom

Andy Honour is an engineer and youth leader – he will talk to us about the models and sculptures that helped Amersham to win the Britain in Bloom prize, and the making of the replica Metropolitan Line Railway locomotive on display in top Amersham.

13 March 2024 at 2pm – Buying and Selling at Auction

Steven Bruce is an experienced Auctioneer. He will entertain and educate us about how things work at Auctions, the costs, pitfalls and some of his experiences.

If you'd like to bring along an item for discussion and valuation, then please let Geoff Clegg know at speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

10 April 2024 at 2pm – Grandma flew Spitfires!

Richard Poad will talk to us about the forgotten World War 2 story of Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) and the men and women of its multi-national pilot workforce, who provided the RAF with a non-stop supply of serviceable aircraft throughout the war.

All Monthly Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at CSP Community Centre, Gravel Hill, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9QX

Other u3a Zoom events:

Tuesday 27th February – The music of Burt Bacharach. Clive Aronson presents from 10:30. This Zoom event is presented by Thames Valley u3a network.

Details at <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/>

Tuesday 6 February - Housing options in later life: The role of retirement housing. Kathleen Dunmore presents from 14:00. This Zoom event is presented by u3a's Future Lives Group. Details at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/our-impact/future-lives>

News from our Interest Groups

Old Time Musical Hall Singing

Urgent message for Myra Hess or Oscar Peterson:

If you are reading this, we urgently need a pianist once or twice a month on a Wednesday afternoon for up to 2 hours. We sing Old Time Music Hall songs to residents of Care Homes within this area. The salary is negotiable between nothing or equivalent. There are some perks, namely, a cup of tea and, if we're lucky, a pastry or two after the show, PLUS the satisfaction of the responses from an

audience, grateful for the relief from a well-looked-after but humdrum existence! Apply in the first instance to me, Bob Leven, Convenor at bobt@halifax99.plus.com

New Experiences Group

The New Experience Group organised 3 painting workshops for the non-artistic in January. Everyone surprised themselves by creating beautiful paintings similar to Monet's waterlilies.



In February the group is planning canal trips on a heritage barge and a brewery tour.

Theatre Trips

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New year and that you are all ready for showtime in the West End! We do not have any theatre outings in January but the shows are starting soon. This new year has started with a plethora of shows being offered. We were fortunate to get tickets for Guys and Dolls, Hello Dolly, Hamilton, Cabaret and Stranger Things in the West End and Calendar Girls at the Mill at Sonning. There was a great response to all these shows and I'd like to thank you all for your quick response and payments as it makes the whole process much easier.

We look forward to seeing you at our first outing to Guys and Dolls on 6th February and I hope everyone has a great evening. Thank you all for your enthusiasm for the shows on offer and hope you all enjoy them.

Angela Windsor and Howard Dawson

Pickleball 2 Group

Thanks to all the members who have expressed an interest in joining the new PB2 group. We were hoping to get started in January but are still awaiting day and time options from the Chalfont Leisure Centre and are in regular contact, hall space is in demand. I will share updates with all those on the list, hopefully in the near future.

Diane Eaton, Convenor

Excursions Group

At the end of January we visited **Dancesport International** in Croydon, the company who produce costumes for Strictly Come Dancing, Dancing on Ice, and West End musicals such as Hamilton and Moulin Rouge. The dance market is vast and as leaders in their field DSI are able to offer bespoke costumes and mail order to ballroom and Latin dancers world-wide. They also work with Carnival and P & O so if you've been on a cruise and seen the shows the chances are the costumes come from South London!



The tour was mind-blowing! To learn from their personable and enthusiastic managing director how the business works and how the outfits are made was a true experience. Who would have thought that the design for a Strictly Come Dancing dress arrives with DSI on a Tuesday (if they're lucky) with the finished item required by Thursday!



Albert Hall Carol Concert – 23 December 2024

We received a tremendous response for this year's concert and again will take two coaches for this event. All tickets have now been allocated but if you'd like to go on the waiting list please email excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



To join the excursions group and receive information about the days out just email Val and Kate on excursions@chalfonts.u3.org.uk

Garden Visits

Our first visit this year will be a return to the Daffodil Festival at Thriplow on Sunday 17th March. As well as daffodils, there are over 100 stalls to browse, entertainment, and food and drink. All hosted by the local village for this annual fundraising for charity event. To join the garden visits group please email Jane, Jacqui and Kate on gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Coffee Morning

There will be a coffee morning for all members on Wednesday 14th February at The Greyhound Inn at 10 a anyone wishing to attend please email groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk .

Riviera Travel Holidays

Riviera Holidays - Provider of holidays including cruises and signature tours. Unbeatable value for money & honest pricing, backed by price match guarantee. Which recommended.

Book with Riviera Travel, tell them that you belong to Chalfonts u3a and your u3a will receive a payment from Riviera which helps support our activities.

See advertisement in Third Age Matters magazine for further details. www.rivieratravel.co.uk

Chalfonts U3A Directory of Interest Groups

For general enquiries about interest groups please contact

Lesley Bedford – Interest Groups Co-ordinator - groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Telephone: 07970 848617

Or, if you know which group/s you wish to join please contact the convenor direct

INTEREST GROUP	CONVENOR	EMAIL
Badminton	Chris Pearcey	badminton@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Ballroom Dancing	Laura Fordrey	ballroomdancing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Birdwatching	Tony Micallef	birdwatching@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Book Club 1	Carol Lyons	bookclub1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Book Club 2	Marsha Partridge	bookclub2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Book Club 3	Marsha Partridge	bookclub3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Bridge for Beginners	Awaiting convenor	bridgeforbeginners@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Bridge	Sue Fisher	bridge@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cake Decorating	Jane Douglas	cakedecorating@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Chess	Tony Micallef	chess@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Computing	Gary Tomlin	computing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Coffee Mornings	Chris Coteman	coffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cribbage	David Burbidge	cribbage@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cricket- Mixed Walking	Eileen Powell	mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Creative Writing	David Brodie	creativewriting@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Crochet	Jeanette Galletly	crochet@chafontsu3a.org.uk
Cryptic Crosswords	Bob Leven	crypticcrosswords@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cryptic Crosswords Too	Val Darbyshire	crypticcrosswordstoo@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Current Affairs	Val Hadfield	currentaffairs@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cycling Longer Routes	Dave Duckworth	cyclinglongerroutes@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Excursions/Outings	Val Smith, Kate Trotman,	excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Family History	Jan Sawyer, Marguerite Fletcher	familyhistory@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Family History2	Linda Kedge	familyhistory2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Conversation Intermediate 1	Sandy Oldham	frenchconversation1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Conversation Intermediate 2	Ray Luker	frenchconversation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Conversation Advanced	Awaiting new convenor	frenchfluent@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Garden Visits	Jane Barker, Jacqui Greenham, Kate Trotman	gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
German Conversation	Renate Danner	germanconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Guitar - intermediate	Clive Perkins	guitar@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
History	Trish Hart	history@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
iPad User Group	Phil McAvoy	ipad@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Italian Beginners	Awaiting a convenor-on hold	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Italian Beginners Plus	Lesley Bedford	italianbeginnersplus@chalfontsu3a.org
Lawn Bowls	Mike Alderton	lawnbowls@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
London Walks	John Hardwick, Caroline Ashcroft, Susan Mills	londonwalks@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
MacOS Computing	Gary Tomlin, Les Klein	macoscomputing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Mah-jong	Sam Patel	mahjong@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
New Experiences	Angela Cranston, Sharon Duncan	newexperiences@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
New Members Coffee Mornings	Eileen Powell	newmemberscoffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Old Time Musical Hall Singing	Bob Leven	musichallsinging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Philosophy	Rob Robinson	philosophy@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Photography	Vince Barker	photography@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Pickleball	Richard Cranston	pickleball@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Pickleball 2	Diane Eaton	Pickleball2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Pilates -all groups	Lesley Bedford	pilates@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Poetry & Literature	David Burbidge	poetry&literature@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Quizzing	Margaret Turner	quizzers@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
RUG-Really Useful Group	Sharon Duncan	rug@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Rummikub	Georgina Cane	rummikub@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Scrabble	Anne Higson	scrabble@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Science & Technology	Richard Simmons, Tony Micallef	science@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Short Mat Bowls	Sheila Woolgar	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Singing for Pleasure	Brenda O’Gorman	singing4pleasure@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Conversation	Awaiting new convenor	spanishconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Beginners 2	Peter Shaw	spanishbeginners2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Improvers 1	Margaret Burbidge	spanishimprovers1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis 1	Sue White	tabletennis@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis 2	Eileen Powell	tabletennis2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis 3	Gio Pedalino	tabletennis3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Tai Chi – both groups	Lesley Bedford, Lyn Tatnell	taichi@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Textiles and Craft	Teri McAvoy	textiles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Theatre Visits	Howard Dawson, Angela Windsor	theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Ukulele	James O’Flynn	ukelele@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking 6 – 10 miles	Marion Clegg, Sally Buckley	walking6-10miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking less than 6 miles	Frances Byrne	walking2-6miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking Strollers	Kate Trotman	strollers@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Weekend Group	Sue Fisher	weekendgroup@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Wine Appreciation	Grace Hunter	wineappreciation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Wine Appreciation 2	David Hillis	wineappreciation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Yoga	Geoff Clegg	yoga@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Yoga Friday pm	Helen Hall	yoga3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Chalfonts U3A Committee

Chair	Jane Barker	chair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair	Eileen Powell	vicechair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Chris Hardwick	secretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Treasurer/Finance	Chris White	treasurer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Finance Officer	Christine Hillis	financeofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Beacon Administrator	Vince Barker	beaconadmin@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Interest Group Co-ordinator	Lesley Bedford	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Maureen Green	membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Newsletter & Publicity	Vacant	newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Speaker	Geoff Clegg	speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Venue Co-ordinator	Lesley Bedford	venuecoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Webmaster	Gary Tomlin	webmaster@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Co-opted member	John Krushner	projects@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Chalfonts U3A general enquiries	contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Chalfonts U3A website	www.chalfontsu3a.org.uk
U3A National website	www.u3a.org.uk
Thames Valley Network website	www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk